Message Text

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R 311605Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4958 INFO AMCONSUL MILAN AMCONSUL FLORENCE AMCONSUL NAPLES AMCONSUL GENOA

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 8935

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: LIBERALS WISH TO SEND HIGH-LEVEL PARTY DELEGATION TO US

1. DURNG MY COURTESY CALL ON LIBERAL PARTY SECRETARY ZANONE AT THE END OF LAST WEEK, THE SUBJECT OF A POSSIBLE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES CAME UP. ZANONE BELIVES IT WOULD BE VERY WORTHWHILE TO VISIT THE US TO RE-ESTABLSIH/PLI CONTACT WITH THE FOREIGN POLICY COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK. ZANONE, WHO WAS ELECTED PLI PARTY SECRETARY IN FEBRUARY 1976, UNDOUBTEDLY WISHES TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF. THE LIBERALS (WHOHAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE STAUNCHEST SUPPORTERS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY) ALSO WANT TO ASSURE THAT THEIR VIEWPOINTS ON THE CHANGING ITALIAN SITUATION ARE KNOWN AND UNDERSTOOD IN THE US. ZANONE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A FEW OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY.

2. I TOLD ZANONE THAT, SHOULD HE PROCEED WITH PLANS TO VISIT THE US, WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO ASSIST HIM IN MAKING APPROPRAITE APPOINTMENTS IN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES. SINCE WE HAD HEARD THAT THE LIBERALS CONFIDENTIAL

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WERE CONSIDERING A TRIP IN JULY,I SUGGESTED THAT THE FALL WOULD BE A MORE OPPORTUNE ITME, AS MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE ABSENT FROM WASHINGTON DURING THE SUMMER. ZANONE ACCEPTED THIS SUGGESTIONS AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US LATER WHEN HIS PLANS BECAME FIRMER.

3. COMMENT: I FOUND ZANONE TO BE SERIOUS, INTELLIGENT

AND FORTHCOMING. AT 41, HE IS FULL OF VIGOR AND SEEMS TO BE CONCENTRATING HIS ENERGIES AT REBUILDING HIS PARTY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN THOSE PLACES (MOSTLY IN THE NORTH) WHERE THE LIBERAL POSITION IS THE STRONGEST. IN THIS, THE LIBERALS HAVE HAD A GOOD MEASURE OF SUCCESS, AS EVIDENCED BY THE NOVARA AND ROVIGO ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS.GARDNER

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